Duties of the Forest Research Officer.

* 247 *Q.*—Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) what are the duties of the Forest Research Officer;

(*b*) when this appointment was created; whether the Government will be pleased to state exactly what results have been achieved by this officer and how it has been utilized to the benefit of the department and the people at large;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that nothing by way of timber research has been taken up by this officer, particularly researches in seasoning and the economic conversion and utilization of timber; and

(*d*) whether the Government are aware of the reasons why we are importing into this Presidency nearly 80 lakhs worth of Burma teak while practically no Malabar teak has found favour in the Madras market; and if so, what?

A.—(*a*) The duties of the Forest Research Officer are to study the sylviculture of the deciduous, semi-evergreen and evergreen forests of the West Coast with a view

(1) to the regeneration of the most valuable commercial species in the most economical manner; and

(2) to the subsequent treatment of the crop in accordance with the sylvicultural requirements of the several species.

In addition he is also to advise District Forest Officers on regeneration and sylvicultural experiments carried by them in their divisions.

(*b*) The appointment of Sylviculturist for Madras was created in 1918. For results, a reference is invited to the "Report on Sylvicultural Research in the Madras Presidency" which is issued annually as a printed publication. The results achieved are utilized when carrying out various sylvicultural operations and, notably when drawing up sylvicultural prescriptions during the preparation of working plans. The department and the people at large will reap the benefit which will result to the crops of the future as a result of their improved formation and treatment.

(*c*) Yes. One of the best Forest Research Institutes in the world exists at Dehra Dun for the express purpose of carrying out research relating to timber in all its aspects.

(*d*) Large quantities of Burma teak are imported into Madras because the Presidency produces insufficient high grade logs to meet the demand. At present selling rates, Malabar teak in the round would cost at Madras as much as Burma teak in squares.

Burma teak is easier to work than Madras teak and is preferred by the East Coast carpenters for this reason.

There is also ample demand outside Madras City for all the high grade logs produced in the Presidency and hence there is little point in developing a market for Malabar teak in Madras City.